

White Pond Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

Attendance:

- Jerry Frenkil, Stephen Goodman, Carmen Jaquier, Norman Willard
- Chief of Police Joe O'Connor, Director of Natural Resources Delia Kaye, + 6 guests

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Update

Jerry Frenkil relayed a message from Jim Lyon, member of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC), as Jim was unable to attend the meeting.

- There was no BFRTAC meeting in February.
- The 100% design has been submitted for Phase 2C.
- Town Manager and the Select Board had sent letter asking MassDot to extend work past culvert. That was rejected.
- Phase 2C 100% design submission now ends at Powder Mill Culvert.
- All fencing, erosion control and signage that we have been working on for the last couple years will be part of Phase 2D 25% submission once Sudbury gets on board. They are making good headway.
- BFRTAC is continuing to work on interpretive signage around White Pond so that is ready to go once Phase 2D gets going.
- Mass Dept of Environmental Protection has issued their environmental notification form certificate. This basically states any environmental impact will be avoided, minimized or mitigated.

Jerry also reported that Jim had found photos of White Pond in 1992 that showed water levels similar to those today.

3. Summer 2015 Data Review with CPD and DNR

Chief of Police Joe O'Connor presented the data that his department gathered from June through July.

- CPD monitored White Pond neighborhood streets (Dover, Shore, Eaton, Hemlock, Varick, Alden, Anson, Raymond, Plainfield, and Darton) every day from 6/27 through 8/31. License plates were checked for all on-street parked cars. Data was collected at the same time every day, around 4:30 pm.
- The sample size was small due to the algal bloom.
- The data indicated that resident cars outnumbered non-resident cars roughly 2 – 1.

- Chief O'Connor felt that the summer Ranger program was very successful – the Rangers had good communications skills and lightened the load for the CPD.
- The majority of the calls to CPD from the neighborhood were not pond related. There were no major incidents recorded. The number of calls from the area was lower than previous years, probably due to both the presences of the Rangers as well as reduced usage of the pond due to the algal bloom.
- Chief O'Connor suggested that we continue the Ranger program for the coming season.

Director of Natural Resources Delia Kaye spoke about the Ranger program and the data that the Ranger's collected.

- The Rangers were the "first line of defense" and seemed to do a good job.
- The Rangers asked Pond users for their town of residence – most replied that they were from Concord. This was consistent with the data collected CPD.
- Town manager has expressed support for the Rangers for the coming season.
- Director Kaye explained that the target is to get the Ranger program going this year by Memorial Day.
- Funding for this year's Ranger program has been included in the Town Manager's budget, subject to Town Meeting approval.
- Resident feedback was that the Rangers were friendly and successful.

Both Director Kaye and Chief O'Connor emphasized that no conclusions should be reached yet on the collected data due to the small sample size.

4. Next steps for EPA Cyanobacteria monitoring program

The WPAC would like to see Concord become involved with the EPA's Cyanobacteria monitoring program, either through formalized town support or volunteer efforts. Three critical items were identified that must be addressed: (1) someone to do the monitoring, (2) obtaining a measuring instrument – a Beagle Fluorometer, and (3) funds for processing the water samples.

Regarding someone to do the monitoring, a couple possibilities were discussed: finding a volunteer from the White Pond neighborhood, and/or the Rangers.

As for obtaining a Beagle Fluorometer, the big issue is funds – the instrument costs \$1,500 to \$2,500. Norman took an action to discuss ideas and options with Hillary Snook, EPA director of the monitoring program.

Funds for processing the samples is also an issue. Past monitoring efforts led by Bill Walker have been funded by Friends of White Pond. Lab analysis costs have been between \$75 and \$300 per sample. Bill Walker owns the sampling equipment, but that is likely to be different than that required by the EPA program.

5. Other business

Jerry reported that the CCHS Rivers and Revolution program will again be sponsoring a student stewardship project focused on White Pond. Carmen will meet with the students on March 2 to provide an overview of the issues facing the pond.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.